



Northgate Framework Resolution
Advice #3

Date: June 28, 2004

To: Mayor Greg Nickels and Members of the Seattle City Council

From: Ron LaFayette, Chair, on Behalf of the Northgate Stakeholders Group

**Subject: STAKEHOLDERS ADVICE #3: DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHGATE
COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The resolution establishing the Northgate Stakeholders Group assigned the Stakeholders the task of reviewing and commenting upon the proposed Coordinated Transportation Improvement Plan (CTIP), the process through which the City will determine future transportation investments in the Northgate area. The Stakeholders Group has participated in the design of the planning process, and several Stakeholder comments have already been incorporated into the City's revised scope of work.

At its June 24 meeting, the Stakeholders Group reviewed, discussed and voted unanimously in favor of Advice #3.

Advice #3 indicates that the Stakeholders Group accepts the process that has been defined in the scope of work; underscores a number of policy issues which the Stakeholders expect that the process will address as the CTIP emerges; and outlines a plan for participation of the Stakeholders Group at each stage in development of the CTIP. The Stakeholders Group would like the timeline for completion of the CTIP to be speeded up, to the extent possible and it urges the City to implement the recommendations that result from the Plan.

The Review Process

The Stakeholders reviewed CTIP issues through the following steps.

- 1) March 18: Seattle Department of Transportation Director Grace Crunican introduced the CTIP process to the Stakeholders Group.
- 2) April 20: Tony Mazzella of SDOT and Tom Noguchi of Mirai Associates presented "CTIP 101". Group members outlined the additional information that would be needed in order for advice to be offered. Emphasized was the identification of decision points in the process for Stakeholder participation.

- 3) May 11: SDOT responded to April 20 inquiries and distributed results of the Stakeholder transportation questionnaire. Stakeholders asked additional questions regarding the integration of transportation planning under CTIP with the Northgate Area Comprehensive Plan. (NACP)
- 4) May 20: Stakeholders Barbara Maxwell, Shawn Olesen and Ron Posthuma briefed the group on comments raised at the Community Forum and multiple transportation issues which would be confronted during the CTIP process. Stakeholders commented on the draft CTIP scope of work, noting that the process should focus on all transportation modes and that the Stakeholders should be provided the opportunity to review criteria and assumptions used in transportation modeling.
- 5) May 28: A working group meeting participated in by 16 Stakeholders enabled more detailed discussion of multiple elements of the scope of work.
- 6) June 3: The Stakeholders Group reviewed the May 28 meeting and summarized major comments regarding the scope of work, including the relationship between the CTIP and NACP; the need for focus on all modes; and the need for clarity regarding the nature of Stakeholder participation in the CTIP process.
- 7) June 16: A Subcommittee of eight Stakeholders met to review the revised scope of work presented by Tony Mazzella of SDOT and Tom Noguchi of Mirai Associates. They discussed elements that should go into the Draft Advice #3 for consideration by the Stakeholders Group on June 24.

Substantive Transportation Issues for Consideration

The Northgate Stakeholders Group recognizes that at this stage the Coordinated Transportation Improvement Plan is a process which enables the orderly and informed consideration of transportation priorities for the Northgate area. The scope of work is intended not to immediately resolve competing approaches, but to make possible their resolution over time. Our judgment is that the CTIP process as currently defined will allow the consideration of these key transportation issues which we have outlined during our meetings. We see part of our role as monitoring the ways in which the CTIP process deals with these issues:

- Consideration of all actions that impact transportation, not just major capital improvements
- Further information on multiple aspects of system performance, including assumptions behind reviews of traffic patterns and volumes, when and where traffic counts are conducted, and criteria for determining appropriate modal shares.
- Inclusion of safety concerns
- Consideration of all possible transportation modes
- Assurances that traffic will not be pushed into neighborhoods, and review of how Northgate Way congestion and responses to it will impact neighborhoods
- Improved flow of arterials
- Significant improvements in the pedestrian system, including incorporation of Planning Commission work on pedestrians

- Understanding of the implications of Park and Ride capacity
- Overall increased improvements to keep pace with projected growth
- Clear definition of the targeted area for planning
- Response to parking and traffic issues related to development of the Lorig property
- Integration between the CTIP scope of work and NACP; clarity regarding the related goals for the Northgate area (transit center, urban center, shopping center, living center) and their implications for transportation planning
- Analysis of parking inventory, the role of the Northgate Employers Network in encouraging use of transit, and the remaining development potential in zoned capacity
- Current and future I-5 access points and need for smooth freeway access
- Connection of the east and west sides of the Northgate area (bifurcated by I-5) by car, bicycle, transit and pedestrian modes of transport, including along Northgate Way
- Development of alternate forms of transportation (e.g. area shuttle service) where existing modes of transport (both vehicular and pedestrian) may be inadequate

The Role of the Northgate Stakeholders Group in the CTIP Process

The Stakeholders Group has identified these key ways that Stakeholders can be helpful as the planning process is conducted by SDOT staff and consultants. The Stakeholders can:

- 1) Help prioritize the transportation project list.**
- 2) Identify the relative priority of pedestrians, bikes, autos, and buses.**
- 3) Identify others who should participate in CTIP.**
- 4) Help set and prioritize values.**
- 5) Help balance competing interests.**

The scope of work clearly delineates opportunities for the Stakeholders Group to participate in the process. **The Stakeholders Group endorses the CTIP Development Process Chart prepared by SDOT, which provides for five separate review opportunities during the planning process.** That process would begin in August of 2004 and end in December of 2005. It would provide for the participation of the Stakeholder CTIP subcommittee and the full Northgate Stakeholder Group at each of these five stages, which will take place roughly three months apart.

- Assemble Baseline Policies and Technical Assumptions
- Identify Current and Future Needs and Opportunities
- Develop Evaluation Criteria
- Identify Potential Improvements and Prioritize Project/Program Action List
- Develop Implementation Strategies and Recommendations for the Final Report

Early issues that must be confronted with the assistance of the Stakeholders include the extent to which any list of proposed transportation projects should assume financial constraints; the

establishment of the concurrency standard which determines how much transportation investment is required in conjunction with development; and the definition of the project area and sub-areas.

In addition to participation in the above five stages, individual Stakeholders will continue to offer their knowledge and technical expertise. Stakeholders will also advise SDOT on CTIP community outreach processes and will participate in those processes where possible.